



Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association • Hunters' & Trappers' Organization

PO Box 309, Kugluktuk NU X0B 0E0 • Phone: (867) 982-4908 Fax: (867) 982-5912

Email: kugluktuk@krwb.ca

**SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
REGULAR MEETING #004/2019
DECEMBER 4, 2019**

FOR

INFORMATION: XX

DECISION:

Bluenose East Caribou

An interim Total Allowable Harvest of 340 was implemented in 2017 on the Bluenose East Caribou herd for the community of Kugluktuk.

The Governments of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut completed a population estimate in 2018 and came out with 19,294 animals, a decline since the 2015 survey of 38,592.

In preparation for a meeting with Department of Environment, the Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers Organization had a special community meeting on August 28, 2019. The residents of Kugluktuk made a motion for 250 animals with a 1:1 sex ratio each hunting season. While the community and the Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) has acknowledged the decline in the Bluenose East caribou herd, harvesting is still required for food and hides.

The Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association has met with the Government of Nunavut on October 2, 2019 to discuss the current and future Total Allowable Harvest of the Bluenose East caribou herd. The Government of Nunavut will propose a reduction from 340 animals to 107 bulls only to the NWMB at its December 2019 meeting.

107 bulls only would limit the harvest to a seasonal hunt, occurring mainly in the fall before the rut. Comments were made at the October 2 meeting that harvesting of both females and males are required, as people need meat throughout the whole year; as well as hides for clothing and bedding.

The HTO expressed concerns about the impact a lower Bluenose East caribou TAH would have on other caribou herds and other species in the Kugluktuk area (example: Dolphin Union caribou; moose). While other species harvest was encouraged to help with the BNE caribou, while the TAH was at 340; a lower TAH could really impact those other species.

A lot of discussion revolved around predators and predator management. Currently the community participates in a wolf skull collection pilot project by the Department of Environment. Since the project began in winter 2018/19, 101 wolves were harvested. This number drastically increased due to the \$300/sample. Harvesters said that should that amount be higher, they would be out hunting wolves as the 101 that were harvested were opportunistic.

Traditional Knowledge states that the grizzly bear population has increased, with many sightings of sows with twins, triplets and even quadruplets, some of which are close to the size of the sow.

The Bluenose East Caribou Management Plan was originally submitted in June 2019; with a response to work with partners to update the plan co-operatively. Since then, the HTO has met with the Government of Nunavut several times and is coming to some sort of agreement.

The HTO continues to work with Department of Environment on monitoring and sample collection.

Lowering the TAH to 107 bulls only would have a drastic negative impact on a growing community. People need country food, it is much healthier and preferred.